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The weakness of the Nonpartisan movement lies in the fact that ideas and measures are handed down from a small controlling group. The idea of what is generally understood as coöperation is absent. The members of the league have no stake in the various enterprises for the money is provided by the state. The success of such state-owned enterprises depends, of course, upon the efficiency of management and fidelity to sound business principles on the part of the men chosen to direct them. The absence of direct financial responsibility is a weak link in the chain and, human nature being what it is, such a condition sooner or later will bring about a following whose main interest will be the loaves and the fishes. Economic success and political success are different terms. Banks, flour mills, and grain elevators have little in common with politics.

The book is an interesting account of a social movement which has evidently gained considerable momentum and which already dominates in North Dakota and bids fair to extend into other states. The narrative, also, is a fair presentation of facts concerning an important experiment in both politics and economics.

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#### NEW BOOKS

- ANDLER, C. *La décomposition politique du socialisme allemand, 1914-1919.* (Paris: Giard & Brière. 1920. 6 fr.)
- BEER, M. *A history of British socialism.* (London: G. Bell & Sons. 1920.)
- BENDIX, L. *Bausteine zur Räteverfassung.* (Berlin: Moeser. 1919. Pp. 170.)
- BOVENSIEPEN. *Wissenschaftlicher Sozialismus, Kommunismus, Anarchismus, und Bolschewismus.* (Neumünster-Leipzig: Hieronymus. 1919. Pp. 80.)
- BRESHKOVSKY, C. *Russia and the world.* (New York: Russian Information Bureau. Pp. 30. 35c.)
- COLE, G. D. H. *Guild socialism.* (London: Fabian Soc. 1920. Pp. 18.)
- DEVILLE, G. *Le capital. Résumé et accompagné d'un aperçu sur le socialisme scientifique.* (Paris: Giard & Brière. 1920. 5 fr.)
- GERLICH, F. *Der Kommunismus als Lehre vom Tausendjährigen Reich.* (Munich: Bruckmann. 1920. Pp. 275.)

HILLQUIT, M. *Socialism on trial*. (New York: Huebsch. 1920. Pp. 74.)

The stenographic record of Mr. Hillquit's closing address as counsel for the socialist assemblymen before the judiciary committee of the Assembly of New York.

HODGES, F. *Nationalisation of the mines*. (London: Parsons. 1920. 4s. 6d.)

HOFMAN, E. *Die Sozialisierung der Preisbildung*. (Mannheim: Haas. 1919. Pp. 27.)

HUMPHRIES, W. R. *The structure of soviet Russia, economic and political*. (Chicago: Kerr. 1920. Pp. 32.)

KARSNER, D. *Debs; his authorized life and letters from Woodstock prison to Atlanta*. (New York: Boni & Liveright. 1919. Pp. ix, 244.)

KAUTSKY, K. *The dictatorship of the proletariat*. (London: Nat. Labour Party. 1920. Pp. 160. 2s. 6d.)

LAIDLER, H. W. *Socialism in thought and action*. (New York: Macmillan. 1920. Pp. 546. \$2.50.)

Part I deals exclusively with socialist thought and includes the socialist indictment, an exposition of the principal doctrines of Marxism, a description of the proposed socialist commonwealth, a discussion of guild socialism and syndicalism, a presentation of what the author conceives to be tendencies toward socialism, and a consideration of the stock objections to socialism as a reform movement. Part II is devoted to the history of socialism, and there are taken up the following topics: socialism and internationalism (1848-1914), the tendencies towards the new (third) international, the Russian Revolution, revolutions in the central empires (Germany, Austria, Hungary), socialism in other European countries since 1914, the socialist movement in America since 1914, and the socialist movement before 1914.

With characteristic vigor Dr. Laidler presents in detail the socialist indictment of the capitalistic régime, assailing the wastes of the present competitive system, the inadequacy of the machinery of production and distribution, and the exploitation of the proletariat. Nowhere has there been presented a more formidable array of statistical data to support the socialist indictment of capitalism. Footnote references to authoritative sources of statements of theory and of fact are given.

The original doctrines of Marxism, including the economic interpretation of history, surplus value and surplus labor, the class struggle, and the concentration of capital are set forth with unusual clearness. The objections to these theories are given due consideration, and the attitude of present-day socialists towards them is stated. Of especial interest is the discussion of the Russian revolution, and recent developments in European and American socialism, concerning which the data are the latest available.

Little can be said in criticism of the book as a presentation of socialist theory, since the author projects only to a very limited extent his own point of view. In this respect the discussion is not original, the author evidently preferring to appear as the historian of socialism rather than as its spokesman and prophet. Persons who are familiar with the recent developments in American socialism will hardly share Dr. Laidler's conclusion (p. 472) regarding the strategic advantage of the socialist party in American political life. There are many evidences to show that the struggle between the owners of the machinery of production and the so-called proletariat is becoming more and more centralized in the industrial field, which necessarily swings the pendulum of proletarian interest and activity away from the political arena. Imitating their Russian comrades, the radicals in the Communist Party of America and the Communist Labor Party of the United States have sensed this change of emphasis in the class struggle and, disregarding as relatively unimportant the whole field of political activity, are directing their attention to the basic industries and the unskilled proletariat. The position of the communist parties appears to be as strategic as that of the Socialist party.

GORDON S. WATKINS.

- MAYER, G. *Friedrich Engels. I. 1820-1851.* (Berlin: Springer. 1920. Pp. viii, 430.)
- MILHAUD, E. *La marche au socialisme.* (Paris: Grasset. 1920. Pp. 306. 5 fr.)
- MUCKLE, F. *Das Kulturideal des Sozialismus.* (Munich: Duncker & Humblot. 1919. Pp. 289. 15 M.)
- MYERS, W. S. *Socialism and American ideals.* (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton Univ. Press. 1919. Pp. 89.)
- OBEROUCHEFF, C. M. *Soviets vs. democracy.* (New York: Russian Information Bureau, Woolworth Bldg. 1920. Pp. 51. 35c.)
- ONCKEN, H. *Lassalle. Eine politische Biographie.* (Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlagsanstalt. 1920.)
- OWEN, R. *Life of Robert Owen, by himself.* (London: G. Bell & Son. 1920.)
- POLLOCK, J. *The bolshevik adventure.* (London: Constable. 1919. Pp. xxiii, 279.)
- RIHANI, A. F. *The descent of Bolshevism.* (Boston: Stratford Co. 1920. Pp. 62. \$1.)
- RJASANOFF, N., editor. *Gesammelte Schriften von Karl Marx und Friedrich Engels, 1852-1862.* (Stuttgart: Dietz Nachf. 1917. Pp. lxxiv, 530; xxiv, 549. 20 M.)
- RUSSELL, B. *Roads to freedom: socialism, anarchism, and syndicalism.* (London: Allen & Unwin. 1920. Pp. 215. 3s. 6d.)
- SPENGLER, O. *Preuszentum und Sozialismus.* (Munich: C. H. Beck. 1920.)

WEBB, S. *A constitution for the socialist commonwealth of Great Britain.* (London: Longmans. Pp. 350.)

*The case of the Rand School.* (New York: Rand School of Social Science. 1920. Pp. 20.)

*Certain aspects of the bolshevist movement in Russia.* (New York: Am. Assoc. for Intern. Conciliation. 1920. Pp. 43.)

*Decrees and constitution of soviet Russia.* (New York: Nation Press. 1919. Pp. 89. 25c.)

*Facts against socialism.* (London: London Munic. Soc. 1920. Pp. 8.)

*Memorandum on the bolshevist or communist party in Russia and its relations to the third or communist international and to the Russian soviets.* (Washington: Supt. Docs. 1920. Pp. 49.)

*Profit sharing by American employers. Examples from England; types in France.* (New York: Nat. Civic Fed. 1920. Pp. 423.)

A collection of specific statements in regard to several hundred firms using profit-sharing plans. The first edition was published in 1916, but a considerable part of that volume has been omitted and supplementary matter brings the narrative of current experience down to date. One chapter deals with the attitude of trade unions.

*Report on profit-sharing and labour co-partnership in the United Kingdom.* (London: Intelligence & Statistics Dept., Ministry of Labour. 1920. Pp. 244.)

*The truth about the Lusk committee.* (New York: People's Freedom Union. 1920. 25c.)

## Statistics and Its Methods

*Mortality Statistics of Insured Wage-Earners and their Families.*

By LOUIS I. DUBLIN with the collaboration of EDWIN W. KOPF and GEORGE H. VAN BUREN. (New York: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. 1919. Pp. viii, 397.)

This volume is a contribution to American vital statistics of national importance. It presents the detailed analysis of the mortality experience of the Industrial Department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for a six-year period, 1911-1916, together with a supplement including similar data for 1917 in less detail. The study aims to furnish "a comprehensive treatment of the entire field of mortality as related to wage-earners and their families," covering more than 635,000 deaths distributed over most of the states of this country and the provinces of Canada. Added interest is given to the results because the period under consideration has been marked by a comprehensive program of